SEES POLITICAL PUSH

Hoover Challenged on Campus Report

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WASHINGTON — FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover has touched off a political controversy by reporting to Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell that college students are organizing to support anti-Administration candidates.

Hoover's observation on campus political activity came as part of a preliminary 22-page report on the FBI's activities for the year ending June 30.

The report's tabulation of student injuries, as compared to police injuries, during the past year's campus disorders also was denounced by an expert on violence as "biased."

Hoover's report released Monday noted, "There was a sharp increase in protest demonstrations on college campuses during the school year . . . A total of 1,785 such demonstrations took place."

"Looking to the months ahead," the report continued, "the FBI director noted that student committees have been formed on numerous college campuses and will spend the summer planning activity for the coming fall term. These groups plan to encourage the support of political candidates opposed to Administration policies and will insist that schools be closed for a period so that students will be free to participate in this activity."

Lawrence Speiser, Washington director of the American Civil Liberties Union, said the report on student political activity, "whether ineptly stated or deliberate, can't help but increase the anxiety over whether we're headed into a period of political repression based on the major federal investigative agency taking cognizance of lawful political activity for students."

John Spiegel, director of Brandeis University's Lemberg Center for the Study of Violence, challenged a section of the report which declared that of the 462 injuries suffered during the campus disturbances, "nearly two-thirds" involved police and college officials.

Spiegel said the center's studies indicated that at least half the casualties were students. Moreover, he noted that the report mentioned "eight individuals" were killed and added, "It's interesting that the report did not bother to identify them as students, which shows the report's bias."

Thomas E. Bishop, FBI spokesman, questioned the source of the center's data and said, "You can take your choice between the integrity of the FBI for reporting its information and the Lemberg Center and figure out which one you think is most qualified to give correct and accurate data."

Spiegel said press reports of injuries constituted the major source of the center's data. "What's important to keep in mind, however," he said, "is that police officers report all injuries, no matter how minor, whereas students often do not bring their injuries to official attention."

When asked why Hoover would comment on student support for anti-Administration candidates, Bishop said: "If you can't figure that out . . . You are either blind to the facts of life or you don't want to see the facts of life."

At Princeton University, Prof. Henry Bienen, director of the Movement for a New Congress, which is coordinating student political activity around the country, said:

"It is not that students have insisted that universities be closed, but that many students and faculty members have tried to arrange a schedule change. This is not a diminution of academic time. Does the head of the FBI mean to suggest that forming committees to engage in political activity is somehow subversive? And why does he mention it in the context of violence?"

President Nixon's campus advisers have warned him that college unrest is so severe that some colleges may be unable to open in the fall.

The advisers, Alexander Heard, chancellor of Vanderbilt University, and James E. Cheek, president of Howard University, also have cautioned Mr. Nixon that strong statements condemning student protesters have heightened the crisis. Heard and Cheek declined to comment on the FBI report.